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book reverts to the solidity of life in immemorial China that it is found so interesting and that it has such lasting value.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**An Historical Relation of Ceylon**, together with somewhat concerning Several Remarkable passages of my life that hath hapned since my Deliverance out of my Captivity. By Robert Knox. xlviii and 460 pp. Ills., autobiography, index, map.\* James MacLehose & Sons, Glasgow, 1911. 12s 6d. 9 x 6.

At last we have the definitive edition of Knox, a work to whose publication Sir Christopher Wren lent his own great name and the credit of the Royal Society, which was translated into many languages, yet which for long has been hard to come by. No matter how much later investigations have disclosed Ceylon to our better knowledge, Knox must forever remain the basis and foundation, for he was the first European to reveal the ancient Taprobane. The present editor has performed his task with such reverent touch as marks the work of the great Hakluyt Society. The type chosen fitly suggests the dress of the first edition of 1681, the old cuts are reproduced by modern process, the very title-page with which Richard Chiswell put the new work on sale at the Rose and Crown is offered anew to our sight. To this reprint the editor has annexed the autobiography of Robert Knox which was strangely discovered in 1910 among the treasures of the Bodleian Library. This new material gives us information as to the early years of the author before his famous captivity. But more important is the sea life of Captain Knox after his captivity had dragged through a score of years. Here we find a record of the slave trade. After his own slavery he sees no injustice in setting others in bonds. He gives a view of the Madagascar coast, of Bencoolen in the swamps of Sumatra, of St. Helena, of Barbados, of gale and mutiny and the several haps of the sea, all most interesting in the record of geography when geography was nine-tenths adventure.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**The Land of Uz.** By Abdullah Mansûr (G. Wyman Bury). xxviii and 354 pp. Map, † ills., appendices. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., London. 1911. \$2.75. 9 x 6.

In introducing this work of a dashing explorer Major General Maitland speaks of "Mr. Bury's lively pages." The defect is fatal. When an untrained writer essays lively pages, the result is inevitably disastrous. Writing still is held the one trade which requires no apprenticeship. It is a pity, for this is a most interesting region over which the author has scouted, and frequently fought with wild men of a wild desert. His field is a small region at the southwestern tip of Arabia, Aden and the hinterland, so far as he could make his way by force or in disguise in the paths beset by folk who were always thieves and might become marauders. The map which accompanies the text will show the principal details of the country, yet it will not be found altogether successful in illustrating the text when the author chances to pin himself down to statement of routes traversed and villages visited. Authorities are by no means agreed in establishing a real Job in Yemen or the Hadramaut. The land of Uz may be no more than the scene of a philosophical drama, and that seems to be the light in which critical theology now regards it. But however we may feel about the manner of treatment, the fact remains that these are wholly untrodden paths. Not more than five travelers have ventured into this region at all. Mr. Bury has crossed their tracks here and there, but has never paralleled them, therefore

\* Listed under "Historical" on p. 400.

† Listed under "Arabia" on p. 399.

his field is all his own. A German similarly situated would have marched each day nearer his monograph, Mr. Bury comes back with the tale of the joy of fighting and obscures the geographical detail with the smoke of his carbine or his fowling piece. But the geographical detail is there after all.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**Stalks in the Himalaya.** Jottings of a Sportsman-Naturalist. By E. P. Stebbing. xxviii and 321 pp. Ills. and index. John Lane Co., New York, 1912. \$4. 9 x 6.

This book, a continuation of a previous work by the author on "Jungle By-Ways in India," is an account of game hunting on the slopes of the Himalayas. Descriptions of stalking various animals are intended to illustrate the conditions under which they live and to show their adaptability to the mountain slopes; and the writer selected many which he failed to procure. The first of these stories describes the quest of the goral (goat-antelope) and gives a good picture of the type of country where the goral lives. There are similar accounts of hunting stags, bears, tigers, leopards, serow, "likened to a cross between a cow, donkey, pig and goat," goats and sheep. It is amazing to read of the headlong flight of goats over country which the hunter, with the best of care, cannot follow, and the marvelous performances of the tahr and the markhor, representatives of the goat family, related in the closing chapters of the book, almost stagger belief. A few fine photographs of animals and many amateurish sketches illustrate the book.

R. M. BROWN.

### AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA.

**My Adventures Among South Sea Cannibals.** An Account of the Experiences and Adventures of a Government Official among the Natives of Oceania. By Douglas Rannie. 314 pp. Map, ills., index. J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia. 1912. \$3.50. 9 x 6.

Probably for a long time to come the story of Melanesia must be told after much this fashion, and it is a very vivid fashion indeed. We must either take this sort of adventure record by men to whom adventure was all in the day's work, or else we must turn to the missionary record. Honesty compels acknowledgment that the adventurer gives us our best contribution to geographical knowledge. Though coming to light after a long interval, this story of black-birding in the Western Pacific will be noticed to agree most remarkably with Capt. Wawn's book upon the same topic. The two men represent diverse interests in the practice of what was really a slave trade, no matter how much it was sugar coated in phrase. Wawn found his profit in getting his hold most quickly filled with Melanesians to work the Queensland sugar plantations. Rannie was one of the first representatives of the system, always futile, by which Queensland sought to make this virtual slavery pass muster as contract labor. The master of a labor trader and the government agent were always warring forces; each unit transaction resulting in a slave was regarded by the two from opposite ends of the same diameter. Wawn and Rannie seem never to have been shipmates; in fact, Rannie nowhere mentions him, yet they were in the same region of the Pacific at the same time, and many events will be found common to the two narratives. Each is valuable as sketching in the results of reconnaissance into remote spots of earth which repel exploration and which must long remain neglected. The present reviewer was frequently in that region and met each of